Central and the State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks and relaxation in the prescribed maximum age limits and educational qualifications for appointment. The State Government of Kerala has exclusively reserved vacancies for ex-Servicemen in National Cadet Cops (NCC) and Sainik Welfare Departments. A variety of training programmes are conducted for ex-Servicemen to improve their employment potential. Several schemes are also in operation to provide assistance to the ex-Servicemen in self-employment ventures.

Port Facilities

5644. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government to develop additional facilities to meet the demand of increasing exports by various ports in the country;

(b) names of ports where additional facilities have been developed and work commenced; and

(c) the items for which such additional port facilities have been created ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN)) : (a) During 9th Plan (1997–2002), an outlay of Rs. 8011 crores has been proposed for development of port facilities to meet the growth of import/ export traffic in the country.

(b) and (c) During the 8th plan (1992-97) additional facilities have been created at various major ports for handling various commodities like, containers at Calcutta and Cochin, *POL at Cochin and general cargo at Mormugao, Paradip, New Mangalore, Visakhapatnam and Haldia.

*Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants.

[Translation]

Test Fire of Arjun and Prithvi Missiles

5645. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the Arjun and Prithvi Missiles were test fired during the last three years;

(b) whether any pressure has been put on the Government to stop launching of these missiles;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government intend to continue the test firing of the above missiles irrespective such pressure tactics ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) ARJUN is a main battle tank. After extensive user trials, ARJUN has been accepted by the Army and it has entered production phase.

Seven flight trials of PRITHVI missile have been undertaken during last three years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Developmental and user's trials of 150 km. version of PRITHVI missile have already been completed.

Further, developmental flight tests for the 250 km. version for the Air Force have also been completed and its user trials will be carried out shortly.

[English]

Derecognition of Degree

5646. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI LAL BABU PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Medical Council of India has recommended that degrees from Medical institutions in the erstwhile USSR be derecognised after 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether fresh inspection of Medical institutions in the former USSR is necessary because of their autonomy after breaking of USSR in 1990;

(d) the number of Indians likely to be affected due to this decision; and

(e) the steps taken to review this decision ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The General Body of Medical Council of India (M.C.I.) at its meeting held on 25-8-1994